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TO USINFO WASHC

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UNCLAS 230722Z FOR IPS AND PASS TO WHITE HOUSE AND VOA

HEREWITH EDIT FROM GUARDIAN OF 23RD TITLED QT CARIBBEAN STORM

WARNING UNQT TEXT.....

CARIBBEAN STORM WARNING

THE UNITED STATES HAS ACTED DRASTICALLY AGAINST CUBA THOUGH NOT TO THE EXTENT OF INVASION OR OF A TOTAL BLOCKADE. IT INTENDS TO STOP THE SHIPMENT OF ALL "OFFENSIVE" EQUIPMENT, AND FOR THAT PURPOSE A STRICT 17-4-.58,3" IS TO BE ENFORCED BY THE UNITED STATES FORCES. PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S REASON IS THAT "UNMISTAKABLE EVIDENCE" SHOWS THAT OFFENSIVE MISSILE SITES ARE BEING PREPARED ON THE ISLAND. FROM THESE, HE SAYS, NUCLEAR WARHEADS COULD BE FIRED AT WASHINGTON, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND OTHER TARGETS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

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WILL THIS COURSE BE EFFECTIVE IN THE CARIBBEAN? WHAT WILL BE THE REPERCUSSIONS IN EUROPE? CAN THE AMERICANS JUSTIFY THEIR ACTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS?

IN THE CARIBBEAN THE US NAVY CAN QUICKLY ESTABLISH FULL CONTROL OVER SEA MOVEMENT. BUT IT CANNOT SO EASILY CONTROL AIR MOVEMENT., AND IT MAY FIND ITSELF FACED WITH ARMED SOVIET CONVOYS. THERE IS, INDEED, A PARALLEL WITH BERLIN IN REVERSE. NO ATTEMPT WAS EVER MADE TO RUN ARMED CONVOYS THROUGH TO WEST BERLIN WHEN THE RUSSIAN

95-53 OF THE CITY WAS IMPOSED, BECAUSE THE ALTERNATIVE OF AIR
TRANSPORT EXISTED.

IT EXISTS EQUALLY FOR THE RUSSIANS TODAY, AND IF THEY WANT TO
ESTABLISH AN AIR BRIDGE TO CUBA THEY CAN DO SO. THEY WILL HAVE
SOME DIFFICULTY WITH ROUTES AND THEY WILL HAVE TO USE THEIR
AIRCRAFT WITH THE LONGEST RANGES. BUT, JUST AS THE AMERICAN
AND BRITISH AIRCRAFT GOING TO BERLIN WERE NOT SHOT DOWN THEN
BY THE RUSSIANS, SO THE UNITED STATES WILL HESITATE TO SHOOT
DOWN.

SO TOO THE RUSSIANS WILL PROBABLY HESITATE TO SEND SEA CONVOYS,
FULLY ARMED WITH SOVIET NAVAL ESCORTS. THAT WOULD
BRING THE
RISK ON A SEA BATTLE - AND OF DEFEAT OF THE SOVIET ESCORTS,

UNLESS THEY WERE TO RESORT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHATEVER THE
VALUE OF CUBA TO RUSSIA, MR. KHRUSHCHEV IS NOT LIKELY TO LET
THE STAKES AMOUNT SO HIGH. MR. KENNEDY MUST BE BANKING ON
THAT. IT IS ODD, INDEED, THAT THE RUSSIANS SHOULD CONTEMPLATE
PUTTING MISSILE BASES THERE. ALREADY THEY CAN REACH ANY TARGET
IN THE UNITED STATES FROM BASES IN RUSSIA, OR SO MR. KHRUSHCHEV
SAYS. WHY PUT BASES IN SUCH A VULNERABLE SPOT AS CUBA? THERE IS
PERHAPS SOME ADVANTAGE IN SHORTENING THE WARNING TIME, BUT THAT IS
NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE THE
RISK AND TROUBLE WORTH WHILE.

CONCEIVABLY, IF MR. KHRUSHCHEV REALLY HAS BEGUN TO BUILD OFFENSIVE
MISSILE BASES IN CUBA, HE HAS DONE SO PRIMARILY TO DEMONSTRATE
TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD
THE MEANING OF AMERICAN

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BASES CLOSE TO SOVIET TERRITORY. TURKEY, AFTER ALL, HAS A COMMON
FRONTIER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE AMERICANS HAVE BASES IN TURKEY,
AND HAVE HAD THEM FOR YEARS. FOR JUST AS LONG THE RUSSIANS HAVE
COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT THEM, BUT THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN DIRECT
ACTION. MR. KHRUSHCHEV MAY CALCULATE -- WITH SOME REASON --
THAT THE EFFECT OF WHAT HE DOES IN CUBA WILL BE TO WEAKEN
AMERICA'S MILITARY FOOTHOLD IN WESTERN EUROPE. WHAT IS SAUC

FOR CUBA IS SAUC ALSONOR TURK, BERLIN, AND OTHER PLACES. THE
EFFECTS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ACTION MAY WELL BE FELT LONG
AFTER THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

IN THE UNITED NATIONS THE AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE
THEMSELVES. IN THIS AT LEAST, AND IN THEIR CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
GOVERNMENTS BEFOREHAND, THEY HAV ACTED WISELY. BUT EVEN A LIMITED
MILITARY ACTION WILL BE HARD TO JUSTIFY. IN THE END THE UNITED
STATES MAY FIND THAT IT HAS DONE ITS CAUSE, ITS FRIENDS,
AND ITS OWN TRUE INTERESTS LITTLE GOOD. ITEM USINFO LONDON

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